MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) As on 1st March, 1999, 129 letters from M.Ps were pending in the Ministry out of which final replies in respect of 32 letters are already under submission. Of the remaining 97 letters, 52 letters have been pending for over 3 months, mainly for want *of* requisite information from other Ministries/ Departments.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The main reason for pendency is as mentioned against reply to parts (a), (b) and (c). It will be difficult to indicate the date by which replies will be sent to all the pending letters. However, efforts will be made to send the replies as early as possible.

Pensionary Benefits to the Employees of Indian Red Cross Society

1015. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Indian Red Cross Society are. entitled to the benefits of pension and family pensions;

(b) if so, from which date they are entitled to the benefit of pensions and family pensions separately; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor while they are entitled to CGHS facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTANAN): (a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The employees of the Indian Red Cross Society (National Headquarters) enjoy the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund. The employees contribute 10% of their pay to the CPF and the Society makes a matching contribution. The Government of India have extended the facility of CGHS to serving employees of the Society on payment of a prescribed fee.

Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by Ministers

1016. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Members of the present Council of Ministers have since filed their declaration about their assets and liabilities as on a date posterior to March, 1998 to the P.M.O.;

(b) if so, whether these would be made public/placed in Parliament library; and

(c) whether M.Ps and M.L.As also will be asked to follow suit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR MR. JANARTHANAN): (a) In pursuance of the decision taken by the Cabinet on 22nd March, 1998 that Members of Council of Ministers should declare their assets and liabilities to the Prime Minister, including those of their family members within the next 90 days for being made public, all the Ministers have submitted their statements of assets and liaoilities.

(b) It is proposed to place a copy each of the above statements in the Parliament House Library soon.

(c) As regards MPs, a suitable provision, regarding declaration of assets and liabilities, has been incorporated in the Lokpal Bill, 1998 which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 1998. So far as the MLAs are concerned, the matter lies within the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.